

Appl. No. : 09/486,167
Filed : August 15, 2000

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, and 17-32 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 9, 12, and 16 are now pending in this application. With this amendment, claims which have been withdrawn from consideration and also claim 14 are cancelled without prejudice to pursuing this subject matter in continuing or divisional application(s). In addition, the title has been amended to correspond to the presently claimed subject matter and to not exceed 500 characters. The specification has been amended to conform the Figure description with the formal drawings, to recite the SEQ ID NOS in the figure description, and to correct clerical error in the numbers referring to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. It is clear from a review of SEQ ID NO: 2 that the numbering recited in the specification is off by 1 amino acid residue. This error has been corrected with the present amendment. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 5, 9, 12, and 16. As this amendment addresses various formal matters and the remaining claims have been cancelled, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as having undue scope and for containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) has possession of the claimed invention at the time that the application was filed.

Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's grounds of rejection, claim 14 has been cancelled in order to expedite prosecution and obtain allowance of the present claims. Consequently, these grounds of rejection may be withdrawn.

Objection to the disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure as no longer corresponding to the formal drawings filed 6/13/03.

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With this amendment, the specification is amended to provide a description for Figure 5A-C. SEQ ID NOS have also been provided. In view of Applicants' amendments, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' claim cancellations and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated:

Dec. 17, 2003

By:

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